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April 11.

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other public works as are necessary to the better occupation of the land. The virtual effect of the arrangement to the purchaser would be that the land would cost him £3, which he might pay by instalments of 10s an acre. This would, I believe, keep off land-jobbers. The privilege of paying instalments is to them no temptation; they are especially men whose command of large sums of money enables them to operate to great advantage in the land market.

gives them peculiar command of a market. The pounds per acre would prevent any large speculation on the part of such men as these."

Mr. Tancred's regulations propose to give a "right to occupy" any block not being less than 20 acres on payment of 10s per acre; a Crown Grant given if one-fourth part of such land be improved within one year, the word improved to mean ploughing or digging the land; a house or building

with \$20 to count as two acres, ploughed or dug five chains of fencing to be equivalent to one ploughed or dug. If one-fourth of the land is improved within one year, a Crown Grant to be for the land which has been improved. If not, the land has been improved, the license to be re-subject always to an appeal to the Superintendent and Executive Council. Licenses to be transferred by endorsement, the person to whom transferred be bound by the same conditions as the original licensee.

holder. The regulations also provide that rural land may be purchased unconditionally at £2 per acre, with payment of which sum a Crown Grant to be immediately issued."

Mr. E. J. Wakefield proposes, in addition to the Regulations proposed by the Provincial Government, that land shall be let on improving leases for 21 years, in blocks of not less than 20 acres, at a rent of 6s. per acre; a Crown Grant to be issued on the production of improvement certificates at the expiration of the term of the lease.

of \$2 10s. per acre for the land. One clause provides that every person who shall pay into the Provincial Treasury any sum of money as a contribution to a public road, bridge, causeway, or ferry, or to a public school or place of Divine worship within the province, whether such institution shall be in private or not, shall be entitled to an improvement certificate to the amount of his contribution. Such sums paid to the emigration fund to entitle to improvement certificate for the amount. Improvement certificate

be issued for half the sum expended in cabin passage and for the whole amount in steerage passage. Timber licenses only to authorise the persons to haul them to cut down, saw, or split timber, but not to ply others.

His Honor the Superintendent, on a vote of the Provincial Council, had removed Colonel Carter the Registrar of Deeds, &c., from his office. It appears to have been a misunderstanding between the Registrar and the Provincial Government that

maintaining that he was responsible to the Government alone, and refusing to make any to the Provincial Government, by whom he was paid his salary, and in his appealing to the administering the Government, who declined to interfere. The Provincial Executive have taken possession of the office, books, &c., and have appointed another Registrar. Colonel Campbell has applied to the Governor and the Hon.

PROGRESS OF THE CANADA WORK
(From the Liverpool Courier, December 20.)

The first engine was named the Lady Elgin, a second Lord Elgin, in compliment to the person occupied by Lord Elgin and his wife in Canada; subsequently the engines constructed have been numbered consecutively.

of eighteen locomotive engines built and proved in addition to this there are many other works, the last engine laid down being number 100, and the whole of the work of these engines being done at a forward state. At these works, during the last period, a winding engine of 120-horse power was built with its boilers, have been constructed for large works in Derbyshire.

Many additions have been made to these since we last noticed them, and they may be considered as in full operation. Amongst the additions to the works we may notice the erection of a new furnace to work up old scrap for forgings, and a hammer to work out the iron. There has been

In addition to the machinery in lathes, planing and milling machines, and the extent of which will be understood when it is stated that the lathes have doubled in number and the other machinery increased in proportion. In the engine department there are about 500 men employed, and in the bridge department about 400 men, making a total of 900 skilled hands employed in these important works.

George Harrison, Esq., of Birkenhead, who has a praiseworthy attachment to his native place, vailing on his principals to construct their works at this very eligible site.

to which we wish to direct attention, namely efforts made by the proprietors to advance the comfort and improvement of the men. On the 10th October last, Messrs. Peto, Brassey, Betts, and Son, gave a donation of £75 to form a library for the use of the workmen, and on that day, in connection with the event, the men held a concert at one of the large rooms in Birkenhead, which was attended by about 500 of the workmen and their wives, and which realised a further sum of £100.

wives, and which raised a further sum of £100 towards the library fund. Hereafter the 2nd of October is to be observed as an anniversary festival of some kind is to take place on that day as long as the works continue. To give character and consistency to the library, it has been placed under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Yarrow, one of the principal practical men in the concern, who, with a committee manages the affairs. The men receive 1 penny per week, for which they have the use of the library.

large reading-room and mess-room, access to the library is by means of a set of stairs leading to the papers, and the use of a well-selected library numbering about 600 volumes. There are also subscribers. The books are given out twice a week and the reading room is open at meal times and up to ten o'clock at night. The library is more than the reading-room; and it is worthy of mention, that with the exception of the Waverley run of the books taken out by subscribers are histories, and books which will improve the

PADDY'S BOOTS.—A green sprig from the Isle entered a boot and shoe shop to purchase a pair of "brogans." After overhauling his store without being able to suit his customer, the shopkeeper hinted that he would make him a

A GOOD JOKE. — A gentleman who has rather too much wine at a party the other

and who had to cross the park "before he reach his abode," came suddenly in contact with a tree. "Schuize me, Shir," said he, stammering an apology, "I 'shure you, Shir," "tired 't on my part. Sho dark, Shir, didn't sho." "Schuize me, Shir, 'schuize me, Shir, if you can." After this obsequious explanation, and an attempt to put on his hat, he essayed to continue his way, but again came in contact with the tree. "I really beg your pardon, Shir."

"I'm 'fraid you'll s'pect I'm 'tossicated; but you, Shir, I never was more shober in all my life so very dark; and really, Shir, I shobbed you'd gone home." At this instant a policeman had been enjoying the scene volunteered to gentleman through the park, assuring him that it indeed very dark, and that the gentleman who had run against belonged to the stationary ment, and that it was not in his power to order him on.

www.nla.news-page1

CAUSE OF REVOLUTIONS IN FRANCE.

(From the *Economist*, 18th December.)

THE whole world has been astonished at the successive revolutions in France, but begins to comprehend that they were the consequences of the misery of the people. Government is supposed to be the source of order and well-being in society; it assumes the responsibility of providing for its welfare; and when the multitude are miserable, can we wonder that they break it to pieces, though unable to make another or supply its place? With agricultural capabilities, far greater than England, spread over a larger surface, with several parts and places, such as the entire department of the North, superior in productiveness to the best parts of England (in no part of France is there so sterile a region as the Highlands)—with a climate less rude than England, and in the South, bearing the vine and the olive, equal or superior to Italy or Greece,—the great multitude in France have been perennially plunged in a hopeless state of poverty, nearly as bad as that of the Irish, without the evil being relieved by the neighbourhood of a more opulent community, and its effects kept in subordination by a greater power. Though much more an agricultural people than the English, and in consequence, we believe, of being less commercial and less manufacturing, the agricultural produce of the French, though the soil is more productive, is less than that of the English. Taken as a whole, France, according to M. Leonce de Lavergne, (in his *Rural Economy of England, Scotland, and Ireland*), would work out of the ground more correct observation, well translated, after stating a great variety of details which justify the conclusion, produces 100 francs per hectare, England produces 200. Our agricultural industry, exercised under less favourable circumstances than that of France, produces more than a double value. In England thirty persons suffice to cultivate 100 hectares, so as to produce equal to 200 francs per hectare, whilst in France forty are necessary for obtaining an average production of 100 francs, and in Ireland sixty. In England, too, the average wages of a farm labourer, before 1848, were 2 francs per working day, and the average wages of a farm labourer in France were not more than 1-25 to 1-50 francs per working day. Thus agricultural produce is more abundant and valuable in relation to labour, and the agricultural labourer is better rewarded in manufacturing and commercial England than in agricultural France.

The relative condition of Ireland and England exemplifies the advantages to agriculture of manufactures and commerce in a still more remarkable manner; yet the policy of every great state in Europe has long been, and in most of them still is, directed to encourage agriculture by placing impediments in the way of manufactures and commerce, the growth of which is sure to improve, extend, and reward it. This great, and we may say, from its general extent and consequences, portentous error, is a specimen of almost universal policy, which, being always founded on some pre-existing condition of society—on some facts passed away, and never to be revived, such as the rude condition of the middle ages—always is in opposition to the new condition of society which nature is continually calling into existence.

Ireland, in which manufactures were actually suppressed, and in which agriculture was less productive, and wages lower than in France, till famine extinguished a large part of the people, was perpetually disturbed. Insurrection was its normal condition. Religion or land tenure was ever the pretext—the poverty and misery of the people were ever its causes. It ended in submission, not revolution, because it was always put down by the Government of its more powerful neighbour. When insurrection made head in France, there was no powerful neighbour to coerce it, and it ended in revolution. Whatever its pretext, social misery appears to have been its cause—a great truth which M. Leonce de Lavergne illustrates unintentionally while he describes the agriculture of England, and contrasts it with that of France. The comparatively backward state of agriculture in France is proved by the facts already quoted. The details of the comparison are carefully brought together in his work: we ask attention only to its causes.

We agree with the author that something is due to the condition of landed property in England; but we also agree with him, from the example of Jersey—from the fact that each peculiar condition of society, as the people are closely packed or sparsely distributed—as there is a fertile soil in the neighbourhood of a large population, or a barren soil far removed from a different distribution of the land for cultivation that too much importance has been attached to the supposed favourable influence in England of landed property generally in large masses and in few hands. We agree too, with him, from the facts, that the influence of large farms in improving agricultural state formerly has been less favoured in England than formerly has been more exaggerated; and we agree with him that more influence has been exercised by the greater love which exists in our manufacturing and commercial country for a rural life than exists in agricultural, but erewhile courtly, France. The difference between the two nations in this respect may be traced up to the time of the Romans, when fields were abandoned to slaves—when the name of the peasant (*villicus*) was a term of contempt and urbanitas was associated with elegance and politeness. The nations of Europe in which the usages of Rome prevailed—Italy, Spain, France—preserved a love of town life, of its security and refinement: the nations less subjected to its influence, and amongst whom a town population was of later growth, never came to prefer it, and found their chief power and happiness in possessing large portions of land. This characteristic difference, by always attracting to France all the men of talent and consideration and property into the town, gave to the towns there more influence than in England, and led to agriculture being comparatively neglected. In England, the counties, till the very latest period, were the influential bodies: in France, nei provinces nor counties have for a long period had any voice, and only the towns had either an organisation or power to give utterance to an opinion. The towns only, therefore, possessed political influence, and by them and through them has any prevalent national feeling manifested itself.

France preceded England in agriculture and population, and towards the 16th century is supposed to have been relatively as well as peacefully better peopled than England. In the 13th century it appears to have been much further advanced in manufactures than England. It had preceded us in manufacturing silk. Wool was for centuries exported from England to be manufactured abroad. The highest estimate of our population in Elizabeth's time did not exceed 4,000,000. The land was then less cultivated, or worse cultivated, than in France, and throughout the 17th century France exported corn to England. But before the close of that century a change in the relative progress of the

two nations set in. "The assassination of Henry IV. again plunged France into chaos, but the results of the short period of hope during his life were experienced for a considerable time." Under Richelieu and Louis XIV., in the early part of his reign, France flourished. The country was then inhabited by a numerous nobility, whose interests were bound up with those of the rural population; but later in the reign of Louis XIV., France was exhausted by his follies, population fell off, and agriculture declined.

England increased in population rapidly after the civil wars. Her people overflowed on her American colonies. They increased her commerce, her manufactures extended, her agriculture was improved, and in the latter half of the 18th century, though she fed a largely increased population at home, she exported, says the author, £40,000,000 of cereals, a great part of which went to France. From the Revolution of 1789, trade, manufactures, and agriculture have gone forward together in England; if not exactly *pari passu*, yet the forward step of one has soon been overtaken by the forward step of the other, and manufactures and commerce have only cast aside the legislative chains imposed on them in favour of agriculture, to provide for it a more extensive market and give it a more powerful stimulus than it ever before received. Her population have found by their own industry the means to increase; they have continually and rapidly increased; and, in spite of contests for the crown since the Revolution in the 17th century, England has been, with partial exceptions, extremely and generally prosperous.

It has not been exactly so with France. As her agriculture declined, or did not improve, towards the end of the 17th and in the 18th century her population became impoverished. In 1698 it was estimated that one-tenth was in a state of mendicancy, and five-tenths but little above it. The picture given of French society by Vauban makes one shudder. "In 1694, or 6d. an acre, and at this rent the farmer had great difficulty in making a livelihood. The pressure of the population on the means of subsistence, leading to a calamitous condition of society, failed to awaken the rulers of France to any perception of the truth. The wars and magnificent follies of Louis XIV. were exceeded in extravagance by the waste of Louis XV. In the midst of a profound peace in 1739, and after an average harvest, the people, exactly like the Irish in 1846-7, were 'dying like flies of want,' and eating grass. 'The provinces of Maine, Angoulême, Touraine, Haute-Poitou, Perigord, Orléans, Berry,' wrote the Marquis d'Argenson, 'are the most wretched, and the distress is advancing towards Versailles. The Duke of Orleans lately laid before the council a piece of bread, which we got for him, made of ferns and placentia. 'Sire, here is what your subjects live upon.' The terrible distress made itself felt in the towns, and public writers began to expatiate on it. There is abundant evidence, however, to show that a similar condition continued without much amelioration till 1790. Quénay and others pointed out the enormous evils. Turgot made some excellent reforms, but they could not immediately relieve the general misery. It had become too overwhelming to be longer kept in check; it informed the public mind; it ripened into a natural and powerful emotion; and the dreadful revolution was the consequence."

In spite of the revolution, or rather in consequence of it, notwithstanding its excesses, population found means to grow. The author estimates that in fifty years from 1740, notwithstanding the fifty years of horrible revolutions and bloody wars, agricultural production quadrupled and population doubled. The Consulate was a comparatively happy and prosperous period. The wars of the empire were fatal to population and progress, and it was only subsequent to 1815 that the industry of the nation was enabled to develop itself. Gradually, however, the excessive expenditure of the Government of peace, and the author favours continual interference, with the retention of old restrictions, placed other impediments in the way of progress. The population, though improved subsequently to the time of Vauban, was continually stopped—always at intervals pressing severely, against the means of subsistence, and always at intervals subjected to great exacerbations of social misery. It was then ever ready to revolt against the power which undertook to prevent and actually brought on the misery.

This is the short history, as we gather it from M. Leonce de Lavergne's book, of the successive *bouleversements* of political society in France. As the population has grown, it has wanted more means to grow: the natural growth has, at successive periods, reduced it to great misery, and brought it into conflict with political power, which it has frequently overturned, and by which it has been frequently subdued. Whether the present or any future Government will be wise enough gradually to remove all artificial barriers to the development of industry—restrictions and regulations for trade—which prevent the increase of the means of subsistence and the growth of population, is impossible to say; but the less of free trade has now been so long and so emphatically taught, that there is some reason to hope every Government will speedily learn and act on it. Government, for its own safety, must stand out of the way of that great natural force of society, which if, as is said, the parent of misery, the parent of revolutions. Reason, religion, experience, our practical faith in nature, all forbid us to condemn the great dispensation by which the human race is designed to multiply and spread over the earth, and leave us no alternative but to condemn the restrictions which cause poverty and misery, and impede the progress of population, till they are forcibly removed out of the way.

THE GOLD EXPORT DUTY BILL.

(From the *Melbourne Argus*.)

CAPTAIN COLE had, as it appears to us, some reason to complain of the haste displayed on Wednesday in hurrying through Council the second reading of the Gold Export Duty Bill. When Government officers are anxious to push a measure through this stage, they lay great stress upon the fact that all necessary alterations can be made in committee; but when once the bill is in committee all comprehensive discussion is deprecated, on the ground that the general principle was affirmed by the second reading. So it ought to be, perhaps; but if due discussion of the general principle is avoided by precipitancy at the second reading—if the second reading be in fact agreed to as little more than a matter of form—the discussion which ought to be permitted to take place on the less legitimate occasion—when the Speaker lies on the chair. With regard to the Gold Export Duty Bill, we may say, unhesitatingly, that the opinion of the Council on the general principle, has not yet been expressed.

Not only was there a very meagre attendance of members, but dissent from the general principle was expressed by more than one of the few present; though there seemed to be some sort of tacit understanding that they were to be no fight at this stage. Even the Colonial Secretary, who gave his official sanction to the measure in question, declared that he considered "a license fee to be more equitable in principle than an export duty;" and as we have before now been made acquainted with Mr. Haines's views on the license fee, we are placed in a position to judge how far his vote for the second reading indicated his approval of an export duty on gold. Mr. Harrison also opposed the measure; but, as we said before, he seemed to be a sort of tacit understanding that it was to be read a second time yesterday; and we trust our hope will be justified—that there will be no attempt to burke a general discussion when the bill is next brought before the Council. Even those members who advocated the measure most strongly, did so on the least of two evils argument. They did not attempt to show that an export duty was good *per se*, but simply that it was less objectionable than the present license fee. So far we can go with them, but we doubt if we can go much further. We should be very sorry to throw unnecessary obstacles in the way of any addition to the public revenue, but we cannot forget the strong objections which we long since entertained to this measure; and we must confess that nothing has yet happened to remove them.

The objections to an export duty on gold are too numerous, and ramify into too various directions, to be all considered here; but a few of the most probable may be mentioned. We all know that one requisite condition of a good tax is that the revenue reaped by Government should approximate as closely as possible to the total amount paid by the public. The expense of collecting a tax always absorbs some considerable portion of the gross receipts; and in deciding on the propriety of any particular impost, the ratio between the expense of collection and the sum collected, is one of the first things to be considered. Public report, and the evidence adduced by the Board of Inquiry into the Condition of the Gold-Fields, have furnished us with a striking example, in the gold license fee, of a tax that is absurdly expensive in collection, compared with the sum collected. But the money paid by the public, and the money received by the Government, may differ most injuriously in amount, in consequence of other things than expense of collection. In all Customs duties, whether the tax be an export or an import one, smuggling increases the difference between the two sums.

If the proposed export duty on gold be passed, we apprehend that smuggling will probably be found to be very largely carried on both by sea and land. Let us consider the last form of smuggling first.

The immediate consequence of a duty of half-a-crown an ounce will be to make gold half-a-crown an ounce cheaper in Victoria than in South Australia and New South Wales. This affords an ample smuggling profit,—and how is that smuggling to be prevented? It may be carried on almost as openly as a regular trade. Suppose a party of South Australians make their appearance at Castlemaine or Ballarat, and begin gold-buying, under circumstances which make it probable that they mean to take their purchases overland to Adelaide. They cannot be hindered from buying, however clear the presumption may be. Neither can they be hindered from travelling westwards with their gold. They would, in fact, be very glad of the company of a body of police on their journey, for they would be doing nothing illegal, and the police would be bound to render the ordinary assistance in protecting life and property. In short, no legal obstruction could be offered to the transmission of gold to the South Australian border; and when once in Victoria is crossed, no legal interference by Victorian police can occur. On neither side of a certain line—only on the line itself—can interference occur.

If the South Australian Government, indeed, would supplement the act of our Council with an act of their Legislature, our present objection would be invalid, so far as the western boundary of Victoria is concerned; but is there any one simple-minded enough to expect that? We know what keen fellows the South Australians are; we know the promptitude with which they passed a Bullion Act, to draw our gold into their market; and we may expect to see water run up hill before they will deliberately avert the advantage which a gold export duty here would give them. Moral lectures on the impropriety of encouraging smuggling will be quite thrown away in that quarter. The Government of Victoria may indeed prevent them from establishing a regular Government escort as they had before; but it will be impossible to prevent parties of men from buying as much gold as they please, or from arming themselves and riding in company for their mutual protection. They may be going to Portland, or to establish an office at Adelaide's, or to engage in any other legal undertaking, for all that it will be possible to prevent. Much less than half-a-crown an ounce paid for a Government escort to Adelaide before, and much less will pay for numerous private escorts again. It will even be, for practical purposes, impossible to watch them to the border, on the bare chance of catching them just there; and the idea of establishing a cordon of sentries along four or five hundred miles of inland boundary, in an uninhabited country (as much of that border line runs through), is out of the question. We apprehend that smuggling in that direction alone may become a wholesale traffic. The Government may indeed count upon some assistance from bushrangers, but independently of the dishonour of such an alliance, we say that much less than half-a-crown an ounce sufficed to pay for protection against bushrangers in wilder times than these, and will suffice now.

As for smuggling at the sea ports, the amount of searching and surveillance that will be necessary to avert it, will, we apprehend, become speedily intolerable. If it be feasible and profitable, as we know it is, to smuggle spirits and tobacco for the sake of a shilling or two per pound, or per gallon, how much more feasible to smuggle something in which value is so concentrated that a profit of half-a-crown an ounce can be got—so concentrated that the concealment of the bulk of a quart pot will produce about £120. This would be less than the profit on a thousand ounces gold; and so much could readily be distributed and concealed about the person as to defy any search short of actual stripping. Is it proposed that all persons leaving the colony shall be stripped? Or to what extent—short of this—is search to be carried? It must be strict to be at all effectual; and it must not be forgotten that we have but one export tax, and that all the expense, inconvenience, and general evil of watching outward-bound persons and ships, will have to be encountered for the proceeds of the gold export duty alone. We believe that the expense

of such supervision would, by itself, eat up a very considerable part of the refund that the diggers would get, and not merely on that portion of gold that would pass through the Custom House, but on the smuggled gold as well. Another cause which would increase the disproportion between the charge to the public and the profit to the revenue! The smuggler will buy his gold at the reduced price, and the half-crown lost to the diggers will be shared between him and his constituents in the neighbouring colonies. As the "smuggling interest" would soon, no doubt, be a large one, their competition may somewhat raise the price again; but if so, that very fact will demonstrate the extent of their transactions. At any rate, it must leave a margin to cover risk and profit: this the diggers must pay; in other words, a body of law-breakers will be established by law, and maintained on public taxes.

Into the general question, whether it be necessary that the diggers should pay any special tax whatever, we will not enter to-day. It is clear enough, however, that when the present absurd and expensive gold-fields administration is annihilated, the diggers will cease to put the country to any great special and peculiar charge; and the general taxation to which they are exposed in common with all their other fellow-colonists ought to suffice, as with these, to pay for their government. This fact does not, however, dispose of the question—whether they ought to be charged something in the nature of a rent for the public property they use. Whatever determination may be come to, however, we earnestly hope that the Council will not pass a law in haste that they may repent at leisure; and one which would but serve to swell that large portion of the labours of our Legislature, which consists in rectifying during one session blunders committed during the session before.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE—THE SUNDAY TRADE IN WHISKEY, AND FORBES' M'KEE'S ACT.

(From the *Times*.)

THE proper observance of Sunday is one of those things that must necessarily come under the law of the land. That has never been disputed by any reasonable person who thinks about the matter. As little can it be doubted that the nature of the observance must be dictated with a proper regard to the public convenience and the purposes of the day. These purposes are, periodically, to refresh the mind, to give the body rest, both for the refreshing of the mind and body, and also an opportunity for those religious acts and meditations which cannot but be much assisted by quiet and freedom from the ordinary business of the world. Supposing that as a matter of fact everybody could go to church on Sunday as often as he pleased, as quietly as he pleased, and that no scandals or disorders of any kind occurred on the Sunday, then there would, perhaps, be no reason for imposing any restrictions on travelling, on trade, on the sale of refreshments and liquors, the openings of public-houses, or anything else thought allowable on a week day. The matter of fact, however, is, unfortunately the other way, for the institution of Sunday, enforced as it is both by custom and by law, has led, particularly, as it appears, in the great cities of the world, to a lamentable amount of dissipation, drunkenness, disorder, and even crime. It is found that the greater part of the population of these cities seldom enter places of worship, and having no taste for religious reading or meditation must go out of doors for some means of filling up the Sabbath day. Once out of doors, they find too many people entering without scruple for their pleasure, in the lowest sense of that word. What should therefore be, as it has been called, "the rest of Heaven," is perverted into something quite the contrary; and the better class of people who have been taught by their forefathers, and not less by the State, that the Sabbath is a day to be observed with great sanctity, abstraction, and quiet, justly complain that they are not protected, but rather hindered, in the observance of a lawful institution. Viewing the law on one side, and the practice on the other, one cannot but be struck with a great inconsistency, pressing hard on those who desire to follow their duty and the law, and then find themselves discouraged, impeded, and even rendered ridiculous by standing by a law that should not be endured. Conscience itself is not always consistent and strong, but it is a great evil when the law is still more illusive and weak. Indeed, the power of religion and moral obligation is altogether apt to be weakened by the spectacle of a state which does not know whether to say a thing or not: which lays heavy burdens on the tender minded and scrupulous, and is itself the first to fly from the responsibility it has created or enforced.

We are not surprised, then, but rather we take it as a great proof of Scotch principle, Scotch consistency, Scotch fairness, and, so to speak, Scotch "hardness of head," that two thousand people met the other day in the northern metropolis for the purpose of reviewing the operation of the "Forbes Mackenzie Act." That measure has been partly successful, partly unsuccessful, or, rather, it has done a great deal, and only has not done as much as it might reasonably be expected to do. In the city of Edinburgh it has caused a very great diminution of police cases evidently arising out of Sunday drinking. We published the important and satisfactory statistics of the question in a letter some time since, and every succeeding Sunday has added to the testimony in favour of the law. We shall not repeat the figures, because figures are always open to cavil, and we will on our part without any predilection in favour of what is called the Puritanical Sabbath, and without any disposition to enforce Christianity by law, we are quite satisfied, on the evidence of the calculations given at the Edinburgh meeting, that the Forbes Mackenzie Act has promoted temperance, public order, and morality on the sacred day of worship and rest. It was to be expected that it should do so, and it has done so. Undoubtedly many a poor creature turns into the gin shop, or the grocer's shop—for they have long been identical in Scotland—simply because the suspension of law leaves him nothing else to do on Sunday. It is all very well to talk of families and homes, but many of these poor fellows have neither families nor homes, nor any other place where they can go, as one of ourselves goes to his library or his family fireside. Even those altars of the domestic affections that many of us spend a life in raising, and that figure so largely in the works of modern moralists, do not always sustain the charm with which we are wont to invest them. Gentlemen will often run away from their firesides on a Sunday to a club or a friend in the country, or to Brighton, or anywhere for change. The hard-worked working man has no such alternatives. The gin shop is often his only chance of cheer, of company, of outward light, and of inward refreshment. We are strongly of opinion that it ought not to be, and that in fact it ought to be closed, and other places of innocent resort found for him. But, as a first step, unquestionably the poor working

man ought not to be forbidden to work and be shut out of shops on Sunday, and then, by a strange perversity, find the gin shop the only place open to him. This is, in fact, to encourage and sanction Sunday drinking with the utmost countenance of the law. The actual result of the Act for closing the public houses in Scotland is quite what we expected. We said, however, that the Act had been partially unsuccessful. That is for a very sufficient reason. It has been only partially put in force. With the culpable connivance of the authorities, the law has not been enforced within nearly two-thirds of the police bounds of the city of Edinburgh. Of course it is but natural that crime, on the whole, should not be found much affected by a law not carried out in those very parts of the city and its suburbs where crime is chiefly concocted and matured, and where there are the most opportunities for its commission. While the magistrates within the Royal City carry out the Act, they find themselves besieged by a circle of neglect, drunkenness, and crime outside the royal city, pervading a population of nearly 100,000. At Glasgow, Paisley, and Brechin the Act has fair play, and its results are less qualified.

Of course we do not forget in these remarks that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. In our humble opinion Sunday observance is a matter for reasonable arrangement, and that any man absolutely needing locomotion, refreshment, and even moderate recreation on that day, has as much right to expect it as the ox or the ass to be drawn out of the pit, or the sick to be healed. Point out any case of necessity, and that case must be met, either by a special provision of the act, or by a dispensing power in the hands of the magistrates. We say that it must be met, simply because so long as it is not met it will give a character of extravagance and absurdity to any general enactment, and eventually lead to its repeal. When a gentleman is brought to a standstill within fifty miles of his dying child, on a "Sabbath eve," or when a man compelled by the inexorable public to work all Sunday night at an employment draining his strength and requiring it to be continually recruited, cannot get a glass of the mildest stimulant, then a stigma and a scandal is brought upon law, for a nature and common sense will not endure so tyrannical a discipline. The public convenience is the best rule in these questions, and, though individuals must continually be called on to sacrifice their advantage or their comfort to the general good, it will never be tolerated that a lawful, honourable, and necessary employment should be accompanied with severe and unnecessary hardships, simply through the rigid application of a law. There can be no possible analogy between the case of a man hard at work in the way of a necessary calling, and that of an idle man seeking early in the day for a stimulus which he has no occasion for, and had better be without.

There is, of course, much practical difficulty in meeting particular cases without letting in large classes, or, in other words, devising exemptions which shall not be fatal to the measure. This is a difficulty. The application of common sense always is difficult, much more difficult than the application of a Procrustean rule which shall convict itself of folly at once. For a hundred who can reason in an exact and mathematical manner only one can reason sensibly and wisely, and in that ratio is wise legislation more difficult than laws done by rule of three. Nevertheless, this is the only legislation that human nature will tolerate or that will endure.

UNITED STATES—BROKEN BANKS.

THE *London Economist*, of the latest date received by us, has published on the authority of the Bank Note Reporter, a list of the names of the Banks in the United States recently become insolvent, with the then present value of their notes.

BROKEN AND SUSPENDED BANKS—PRESENT VALUE.	
Cassa Bank, Cleveland, Ohio	50
Bank of Columbus, Ohio	80
Bank of Erie, Ohio	80
Merchants' Bank, Bridgeport, New Jersey	80
Bank of Hamilton, Ohio	80
Bank of Washington, Michigan	25
Erie and Mahanomet R. Bank, Michigan	25
Bank of New York and Maryland	25
Newport State Bank, Kentucky	20
Bank of Kentucky, Kentucky	20
Bank of New York, New York	20
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The whole is subdivided into thirty-nine compact and well-arranged lots, each of which is described as follows:—
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 83

Mahogany snuff, ditto
Mahogany wet ditty, ditto
Mahogany, crescental, and sofa tables
Mahogany tables, in rosewood mahogany, and walnut
Tables of various patterns, including cr.-ing, wog-
tubers, Sunderland ditto, plain and ornamental, in
various variety
1 Sofa richly carved Spanish mahogany sideboard
1 handsome chestonier, marble top, plain glass back, and
drawers
1 Walnut wood chair, ditto
Mahogany half-circled
Ditto ditto chairs, of various patterns
Rosewood Canterbury washstand
4 Walnut ditto ditto
Half-circle ditto ditto
Mahogany ditto ditto
9 Square whatnots, inland shelves
8 handsome oval mahogany dining room chairs
Rosewood, maple, ash & wood, and mahogany knee
shelves
Walnut and rosewood deservants
16 ditto coffee and china tables
Ditto ditto more than 100
1 pair new gloves, each 18 and 16 inches diameter, cor-
rect in 1851
Mahogany - price sent very cheap
Rosewood and Walnut dressing all chairs
Ditto ditto, 6 or 7 each wog chair
5 Mah prony h-le wog wog chair
6 Mah spring dra ing-room chairs
1 Rosewood ditto ditto
6 Mahogany ditto ditto ditto
Mahogany chrs re-assorted
Pine Derby chairs, assorted
Mahogany's extra
Mahogany extra bedstead, damask curtains
Iron tea French bed & s.
Mahogany beds
W.I.-cr. tubular chairs, spring-and
Mahogany dining table, spare leaves
1 set of a dr. wog set
Flour cots, matting, mats
Denmark in piece, several patterns
China glass plates, best quality
Boojacks, two bows
China mahogany

Square 'til now or's
Hair and dandies covered footsies
100 pit are just hanging, his socks assorted
Parasite print, bed ties, sewing
Hair, sewing, fringes, and various things in the apoth-
ecary; jms
Ladies and gentlemen's dressing cases
Pocket dressing cases, travellers' ditto
Writing de kys in great variety
Tea caddis & nibs, telescopes
Rings & clocks
Faint tea service, bread backs, liquor frames, egg
frames, iron inmates, waiates, and a great variety of
other articles.
Antiques, in the hands of the printers, will be ready on Friday
are the sale.

TO RUN AT SALE.

ANFIELD VILLA ALLOTMENTS,
Close to the only existing 10 mms.

WHEWEN and SHREKLEED are in-
structed to contradict the unfounded rumours
which have been recently circulated in the neighbourhood of
the said, by persons interested in the sale of land not yet dis-
closed in intending purchasers to suppose that a very high land
had been taken by the proprietor. One-fourth of the said land
is absolutely free will sale, and remains a ready sale.
However, the day will be THIS DAY, the 11th of April,
the 11th of May, Tuesday, the 10th. Altered so as not to interfere
at the holidays.

